TRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendation has to be examined in details.

Setting up of National Institute of Consumer Affairs

2439. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Institute of Consumer Affairs at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Government has received a proposal from Govt. of Andhra Pradesh to set up a National Institute for Consumer Research and Training at Hyderabad at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.5 crores which is under consideration. The object of the proposed institute is to undertake and assist in organisation of training and study courses, conferences, seminars; to undertake research; to establish and maintain libraries and information services; to conduct surveys and studies etc.

Expansion of Consumer Cooperatives

2440. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating expansion of Consumer Cooperatives in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of steps proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Cooperation is a state subject and hence it is for the State Governments to initiate necessary steps to make the Consumer Cooperatives more effective for which they have already been advised.

Pending cases before State Consumer Forum in Maharashtra

2441. SHRI ADIK GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of claims pending before the State Consumer Forum in Maharashtra as on 1st August, 1993;

(b) what are the reasons for such inordinate delay in disposing of these cases;

(c) the number of cases from the city of greater Bombay so pending; and

(d) the measures taken for early disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) Government of Maharashtra have compiled information upto June, 1993. As per information available on that date 9698 cases are pending in the Consumer Fora in Maharashtra, out of which 2029 cases are pending with the two consumer fora in Bombay City. Non-availability of (1) qualified persons for appointment as President of the District Fora; (2) technical staff like stenographers; and (3) suitable accommodation are some of the reasons for dealy in disposing of the cases.

The measures being taken by the State Government of Maharashtra in reducing the delay in deciding cases include appointment of full-time Presidents, training of non-judicial members of the consumer fora, filling up staff vacancies, location of suitable accommodation and creation of necessary infrastructure.

Gap between demand and production of coal

2442. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that country's coal

demand during the current financial year has been estimated at 268.80 million tonnes though production is projected at 249 million tonnes;

(b) if so, in what manner the gap between demand and production is proposed to be met;

(c) what will be the gap between demand and production by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan period and how the gap would be met; and

(d) what will be the targets of coal production of Coal Inida Ltd. and other coal producing companies in 1993-94 and by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand estimate of 268.80 million tonnes includes an import of 6 million tonnes of coking coal for use in steel plants. Should the entire estimated demand materialize the gap would be met by draw down of pit-head stocks of Coal India Limited.

(c) Against the estimated demand of 311.00 million tonnes by the terminal year of Eighth Plan, total production is targetted at 308.00 million tonnes. The gap of 3 million tonnes is proposed to be met by import of coking coal for steel plants and draw down of pit-head stock in case of non-coking coal.

(d) Coal production target for Coal India Limited and other coal companies for the year 1993-94 and terminal year of Eighth Plan is given below:—

(million tonnes)

	Year 1993-94	1996-97
1. Coal India Limited	220.00	270.00
2. Singareni Collieries Company Limited	24.00	33.00
3. Others	5.00	5.00
TOTAL	249.00	308.00

Funds generated on premium on Coal

2443. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimation of the funds illegally generated by way of premium on coal annually:

(b) if so, to what extent the illegal funds so generated have disappeared during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposes to check the illegal premium on coal generated in the Coal Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Coal is supplied to actual users against linkages/sponsorships or both at notified prices. Government has no specific information regarding premium charged on illegal sale of coal and as such no estimation of the illegal funds generated thereby could be made.

(c) The coal sold to actual users is not available for resale under the provisions of the Colliery Control Order, 1945. Without the permission of the Coal Controller, any illegal sale of coal is punishable under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act. Whenever any such instances are brought to the notice of Government, suitable action is taken according to legal provisions.

CIL Monopoly on Price of Coal

2444. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 32 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 1993 and state:

(a) whether there has been a coal price hike recently;

(b) if so, by how much;

(c) whether the price actually charged is much more than the hike in price announced;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether this increase was time and again due to the coal being the monopoly item of the CIL in which consumer has no choice to get their requirement from any other source;

(f) whether in view of this he would appoint an Enquiry Committee to examine the price structure, production cost vis-a-vis the quantity and the quality and the justification for increase in prices while CIL is claiming;

(g) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(h) if so, by what time?